

11. (Amended) A remote access control system according to claim 1 wherein each access controller includes recordal means adapted to record data relating to the conditions or circumstances of its associated value unit.

13. (Amended) A remote access control system according to claim 11 wherein the data recorded is transferred to the central control means, via the virtual configuration link.

14. (Amended) A remote access control system according to claim 1 wherein each access controller includes a locking mechanism and an electronic control device.

18. (Amended) A method according to claim 15 wherein the first communication means includes a wide area communications network.

19. (Amended) A method according to claim 15 wherein the second communication means includes a wide area communications network.

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 15 wherein the second communication means includes a local communications link.

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment be entered prior to examination of the application, to place the application in better condition for examination and allowance. No new matter has been added.